
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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MOLYBDENUM IN JANUARY 1997

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate increased 7% in January 1997 compared with that of the previous month and was 9% more than in January 1996, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer molybdenum stocks in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 8,250 metric tons at the beginning of 1997 and 8,390 metric tons at the end of January.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys (MIS) are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials, in January 1997. Also included are trade data for December 1996. During January, Platt's Metals Week U.S. monthly average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.740 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound).

The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$9.740 per kilogram (\$4.418 per pound) and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$11.464 per kilogram (\$5.200 per pound).

Consumption of molybdenum in January was not available for inclusion in this Mineral Industry Surveys and will be published in a subsequent issue.

For the week ending March 17, 1997, Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$9.755 per kilogram (\$4.425 per pound) and that for ferromolybdenum was \$12.125 per kilogram (\$5.500 per pound).

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Item	1995	1996		1997
		December r/	January-December r/	January
Production	58,000	5,060	56,000	5,430
Shipments: 2/				
Domestic	13,700	1,460	16,100	1,330
Export	18,600	1,300	19,700	1,860

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdic oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Product	1995	1996		1997
		December r/	January-December r/	January
Gross production	46,000	4,410	46,300	4,790
Molybdenum product 2/ used to make other products	23,100	2,140	23,900	2,250
Shipments	24,000	1,910	24,100	2,650

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdic oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 3
U. S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORE AND CONCENTRATE
(Including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1995	1996		
		November	December	Year to date
Australia	650	79	--	609
Belgium	103,000	6,160	5,990	124,000
Brazil	1,580	--	--	204
Canada	7,590	330	104	2,680
Chile	62,900	5,250	8,780	69,900
China	--	1,410	2,180	12,900
France	--	--	--	56
Germany	7,700	--	--	5,050
India	--	--	--	586
Italy	1,370	505	114	3,840
Japan	54,900	5,500	3,900	51,400
Korea, Republic of	2	102	--	102
Mexico	40,400	4,100	1,930	55,000
Netherlands	112,000	5,960	--	58,900
Singapore	1	--	--	--
Spain	121	199	--	199
Sweden	6,300	830	200	4,730
Switzerland	324	--	--	--
Taiwan	6	--	--	--
United Kingdom	47,400	2,920	1,340	60,100
Venezuela	5	--	--	--
Total	446,000	33,400	24,500	450,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1995	1996		
		November	December	Year to date 2/
Australia	8	--	--	--
Canada	2,140	161	408	2,520
China	2	--	--	--
Egypt	9	--	--	--
Japan	1,050	--	13	1,170
Korea, Republic of	21	--	--	19
Malaysia	223	--	--	372
Mexico	2,010	50	123	1,170
Netherlands	737	--	--	--
Singapore	--	32	--	539
Spain	234	--	--	12
Taiwan	485	--	--	--
Venezuela	27	--	3	11
Total	6,920	243	547	5,810

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Hundred kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	1995			1996		
	January-December			January-December		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	74,300	47,800	\$73,400	80,900	54,600	\$40,800
Ore and concentrates other	15,000	7,930	8,040	356	211	169
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	9,180	NA	11,400	11,600	NA	8,670
Molybdates of ammonium	3,450	1,860	2,880	6,650	3,680	5,230
Molybdates (all others)	540	420	285	825	364	486
Molybdenum orange	6740	NA	2270	18400	NA	5670
Mixtures of inorganic compounds	6	5	130	--	--	--
Ferromolybdenum	65500	41900	74600	79300	50000	54800
Molybdenum powders	1950	1460	5590	1250	1100	3360
Molybdenum unwrought	1310	1020	3560	911	844	2360
Molybdenum waste and scrap	4530	4300	6310	6930	6400	9480
Molybdenum wrought	--	--	--	--	--	--
Molybdenum wire	11	NA	277	20	NA	309
Molybdenum other	27	NA	993	39	NA	1040
Total	183,000	107,000	190,000	207,000	117,000	132,000

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.